



United States Embassy Fact Sheet Award for Corporate Excellence



U.S. Mission Mexico is pleased to announce that the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs at the U.S. Department of State selected Plantronics, an American company with presence in Mexico, as one of the three winners of the Secretary of State's prestigious 2013 Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE). Plantronics was nominated for the ACE by US Embassy Mexico City. Secretary Kerry announced the winners at the ACE ceremony on January 29.

Award for Corporate Excellence

- The Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) was established in 1999 to demonstrate how American firms can have a tremendous impact by promoting American values and helping to define the United States as a positive force in the world.
- Each year, the Secretary of State hosts a live, interactive ceremony honoring the winners; past winners include both multinational and small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The Award signifies the Department's commitment to further corporate social responsibility, innovation, exemplary practices, and democratic values worldwide.
- ACE winners are U.S.-based companies that play vital roles abroad as good corporate citizens in supporting sustainable development, respect for human and labor rights, environmental protection, open markets, transparency, and other democratic values.
- The ACE helps define America as a positive force in the world. It highlights increasing outreach to the business community, public-private partnerships, and public diplomacy efforts. The ACE recognizes the contributions business makes to improving lives in the U.S. and the world.

Plantronics /Plamex

- Plantronics (NYSE:PLT) is a publicly traded electronic device manufacturer that produces audio communications equipment for industrial and retail consumers.
- Headquartered in Santa Cruz, California, the company has had a presence in Baja California, Mexico, for more than 40 years and is currently best known for its wireless headsets. Neil Armstrong famously transmitted his first words on the moon through a Plantronics headset.
- Plantronics has demonstrated an exemplary record in good corporate citizenship; exemplary employment practices, including a safe and healthy workplace; responsible environmental stewardship and practices; contribution to the rule of law and overall growth and development of the local economy; and has contributed to local science and technology policies; as well as compliance with U.S., international and Mexican laws, especially in regards to anti-bribery, transparency, and disclosure.

- Plamex, the name of the Plantronics Mexico facility based in Tijuana, employs more than 2,000 associates, who produce over 20 million units per year, making it one of the largest, most productive employers in the region.
- In its 52 years, Plamex has grown from 20 people working in a 400 square-meter plant to a truly multinational firm with offices in 26 countries and \$762 million in annual revenue.
- Plamex enjoys a hard-won reputation as the region's best place to work, and the company's Human Resources department has repeatedly been asked by the Tijuana Association of Industrial Human Resources to share its best practices with the group. In 2013, Plamex became the first company in Mexico to be named the "Best Place to Work" for three consecutive years by the Great Places To Work Institute (GPTW).
- Every year Plamex conducts between 180 and 200 "human development" or "morale-building" events in an effort to provide opportunities for family and personal self-improvement, such as on-site primary and secondary education courses for adults through the Mexican Government's INEA program.
- Plamex and its workers have supported charitable institutions, and they currently aid a training center for the visually impaired, a foundation for special-needs children, a children's hospital, a deaf-support society, the Red Cross, the Tijuana police and fire departments, military families, and several local orphanages and homes for the elderly.
- In addition to complying with all applicable Mexican government and USG regulations, Plamex is enrolled in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Pre-Arrival Processing System (PAPS) and Free and Secure Trade Program (FAST), and is a member of the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT). These programs contribute to ensure the integrity and security of Plamex's supply chain.

